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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
27 May 1972

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam
(As of 0530 EDT)

1. Communist forces launched a coordinated artillery and tank-led infantry attack against Kontum City early this morning, the second such assault in as many days. Although allied air strikes reportedly destroyed several enemy tanks during the early going, sporadic street fighting continued during the day in some parts of the town and near the airfield. The defenders' task was complicated by enemy sappers who have been operating in Kontum City for two days.

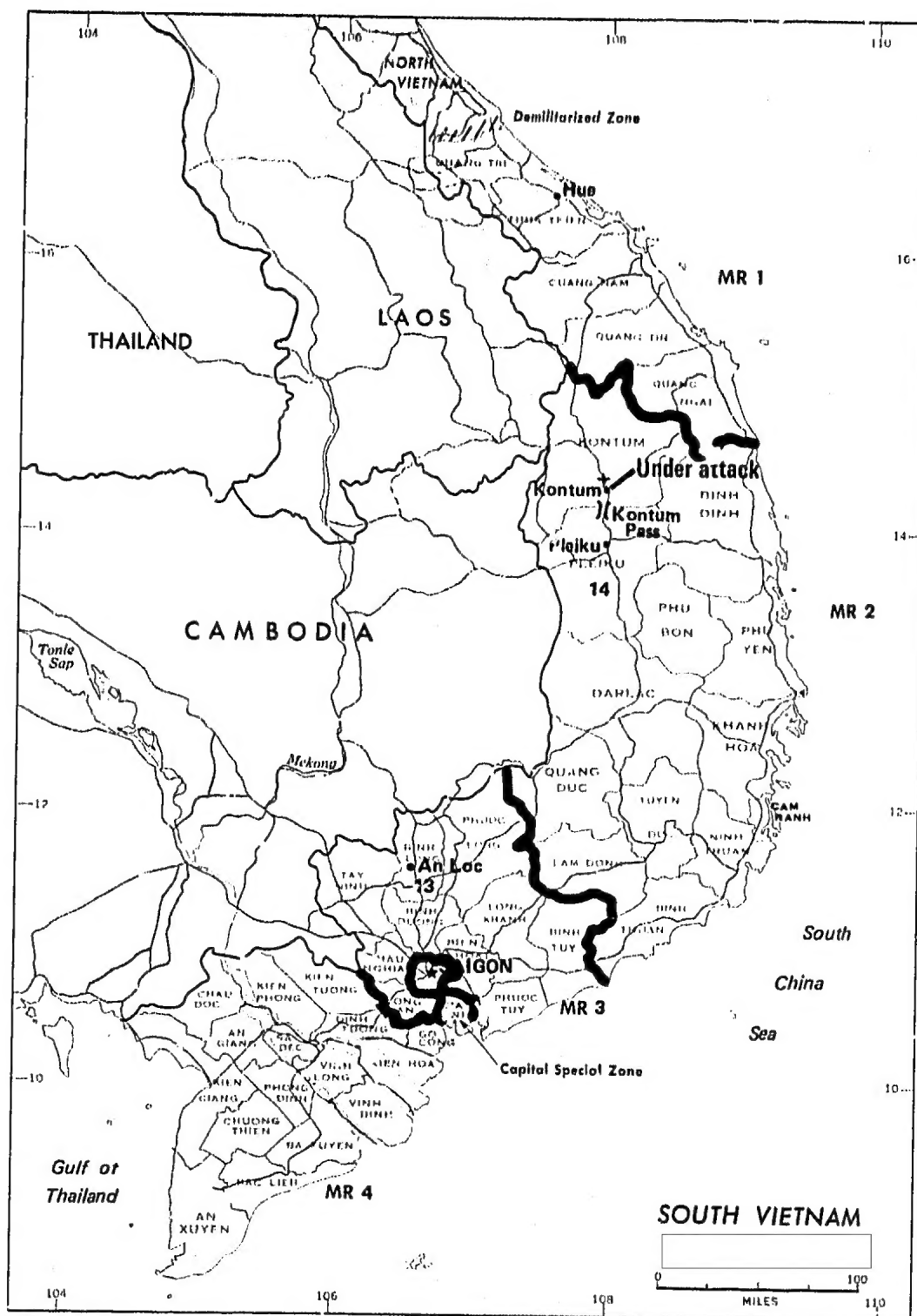
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2. To the south, government forces attempting to reopen Route 14 between the towns of Kontum and Pleiku have encountered stiff enemy resistance at the Kontum Pass, where recently strengthened Communist forces are dug in in positions commanding the highway.

3. No major new fighting has been reported on South Vietnam's other major battlefields. Enemy troop relocations and scattered contacts have been reported west of Hue, indicating that fresh attacks against government positions there may be in the offing. Some fighting has broken out south of An Loc as Communist forces continue to thwart government efforts to reopen Route 13.

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Bridge Repair in the North

4. Photography [] shows that the North Vietnamese had repaired the Cao Nung railroad/highway bridge, 65 miles northeast of Hanoi. [] US air strikes destroyed the center span of this 200-foot bridge on North Vietnam's major rail link to China. Its rapid repair points up the high priority that Hanoi has assigned to keeping this rail line open.

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Soviet Naval Developments

5. There has been no significant change in the disposition of Soviet Naval units in the South China Sea.

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